

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OES-07 IO-13 DOE-15 DOEE-00
SOE-02 NAS-01 NSF-01 HA-05 /105 W
-----106421 301140Z /14

O R 301006Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9810
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12046

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, TGEN
SUBJECT: CSCE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON SCIENTIFIC FORUM

REF: (A) BONN 11633, (B) PARIS 19449

1. WHILE NO VISIBLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE THROUGH
FOUR FULL WORK DAYS AND NUMEROUS INFORMAL CONTACTS THIS
WEEK, DELEGATION CONSIDERS IT USEFUL TO REPORT PRE-
VAILING TRENDS AND ATTITUDES AT PREPARATORY MEETING FOR
CSCE SCIENTIFIC FORUM. THE PRINCIPLE ISSUES SURFACED
HERE AND THEIR STATUS FOLLOWS.

2. SUBJECT MATTER FOR THE SCIENTIFIC FORUM - CHOOSING
THE THEME AND/OR SUB-THEMES HAS RECEIVED MOST OF
THE ATTENTION TO DATE, BUT REMAINS THE TOUGHEST ISSUE,
FOR PRACTICAL, AS WELL AS POLITICAL REASONS. DELS
APPEAR TO HAVE FORMED NO STRONG PREFERENCES FOR
SPECIFIC FORUM TOPICS. MANY PROPOSALS HAVE SURFACED AND
EAST IS CLEARLY RESISTANT TO MENTION HUMAN CONTACTS OR
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INFORMATION EXCHANGE. IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE
ISSUE, EC-9 SCIENTIST-DELS HAVE PREPARED DRAFT WORKING
PAPER, ADOPTED BY NATO WITH A FEW CHANGES, CONTAINING
THREE PARTS: PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS; COMPENDIUM OF THEMES;
AND FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSING THEMES. (SEPTTEL). THERE
IS HOPE NOW THAT PAPER MAY MOVE MEETING TOWARD SELECTION
OF THEMES, ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE CHANGES IN IT MAY BE

EXPECTED.

A. DISCUSSIONS IN LAST TWO DAYS HAVE HEARD SEVERAL DELS SUGGEST CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING THEMES. IT IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED THAT ESTABLISHING CRITERIA WOULD JUST ADD ANOTHER STEP TO PROCESS AND THAT WHILE RE-FINEMENTS MAY BE HELPFUL ONLY THREE CRITERIA ARE ESSENTIAL: (A) THEMES MUST DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF COMMON INTEREST IN SCIENCE; (B) MUST PROMOTE EXPANSION OF CONTACTS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION; AND (C) SHOULD ATTRACT LEADING PERSONALITIES IN SCIENCE. EVEN THE NATURE OF THE THEMES AND THE APPROACH HAVE NOT BEEN DELINEATED AND SOMETHING LIKE THE NATO PAPER IS NEEDED. NATO WILL MEET LATER FOR SECOND MEETING OF DAY TO DEVELOP TACTICS, PROBABLY INVOLVING SPLITTING THE PAPER INTO PARTS.

B. WHILE NNA AND EASTERN DELS HAVE QUESTIONED NEED TO GIVE FORUM GENERAL THEME, CURRENT TENOR OF INFORMAL CONTACTS AND STRENGTH OF ALLIED SUPPORT SEEMS TO INDICATE POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTING FINAL ACT LANGUAGE PROVIDING FOR FORUM AS GENERAL THEME. SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD ENSURE RIGHT OF WESTERN SCIENTISTS TO RAISE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS DESPITE SOVIET RESISTANCE. HOWEVER, SOVIET DEL (WITH TWO BELGRADE VETERANS, BASKET TWO REP BERDENNIKOV, AND AMBASSADOR VORONTSOV AIDE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ZHARKOV) IS PLAYING CARDS CLOSE TO CHEST, EVEN WITH ALLIES, AND MAY MOUNT GREATER OPPOSITION TO INCLUSION OF GENERAL THEME AS MEETING PROGRESSES.

C. CURRENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT THEMES WILL BE DISCUSSED IN FORUM SUB-COMMITTEES, BUT THIS VIEW HAS BEEN AIRED ONLY IN INFORMAL CONTACTS AND IS NOT DEFINITE.

3. TIMING, VENUE AND DURATION - MOST DELS NOW APPEAR TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE IDEA OF HOLDING FORUM BEFORE MADRID WITH SPRING OF 1980 TIME MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED. FRG, HAVING APPARENTLY ACCEPTED INEVITABILITY OF HOSTING FORUM, HAS INDICATED FACILITIES UNAVAILABLE BEFORE MID-MARCH 1980. WHILE SUBJECT NOT FULLY AIRED, TWO-THREE WEEK DURATION MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED.

4. PERIODICITY- WHILE SEVERAL NNA DELS PLUS ROMANIA FAVOR HOLDING PERIODIC MEETINGS OF FORUM AND HAVE ADVOCATED INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF ISSUE ON FORUM AGENDA, CONSENSUS APPEARS TO BE FORMING AROUND COM-

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PROMISE THAT WOULD ALLOW PARTICIPANTS TO ADVISE
GOVERNMENTS ON DESIRABILITY OF REPEATING FORUM.
QUESTION COULD BE ADDRESSED AND DECISION TAKEN IN
MADRID. SUCH A COMPROMISE WOULD ESTABLISH LOGICAL
BASIS FOR DEFUSING SOME EASTERN AND NNA ADVOCACY OF
FORUM CONCLUDING DOCUMENT. ALLIED DELS HAVE SUPPORTED
CONCEPT OF FORUM AS OPEN DISCUSSION AND MADE IT CLEAR
THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WILL REPRESENT THEMSELVES,
NOT GOVERNMENTS, AND THUS WILL NOT BE COMPETENT TO MAKE
COMMITMENTS OR TAKE DECISIONS.

5. DURATION EXPERTS MEETING - GENERAL LACK OF CONCRETE
PROGRESS AND FAILURE OF DELS TO FORMULATE OR ENUNCIATE
POSITIONS MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT EXPERTS MEETING WILL
COME TO EARLY CONCLUSION. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A
STRONGLY EXPRESSED DESIRE ON THE PART OF MOST DELS
INCLUDING THE SOVIETS TO ACCOMMODATE FRG AND FINISH BY
JULY 12 AND THIS COULD PROVIDE UNUSUAL STIMULUS
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TO MEETING.

6. SENSING A HEIGHTENED CONCERN FOR U.S. ATTITUDES AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS, U.S. DEL FELT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ASSESS ALLIES PLANS FOR CONDUCT AT THE FORUM. WE THEREFORE TOOK SOUNDINGS AMONG ALLIED DELS (BELGIUM, UK, FRANCE, FRG AND NORDIC STATES), SCIENTISTS AND DIPLOMATS. THESE INDICATE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT WEST EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS WOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN MULTILATERAL SETTING LIKE FORUM. THE STRENGTH OF FEELING SURPRISED U.S. DEL IN LIGHT OF EXTENSIVE FRENCH SCIENTISTS' REACTION TO ORLOV CASE (REF B) AND PRESENCE ON UK DEL OF PROF. JOHN M. ZIMAN, LEADING SPOKESMAN FOR UK SCIENTISTS ACTIVE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. GENERALLY ALLIED SCIENTISTS FEEL THAT PERSONAL AND BILATERAL REPRESENTATIONS ARE APPROPRIATE IN THESE HUMANITARIAN CASES, BUT THAT THE MULTILATERAL FORUM SHOULD ENHANCE, NOT STRAIN CONTACTS. THEY ALL QUALIFY THIS AS APPROPRIATE RESPONSE WITH REGARD TO CURRENT SITUATION, BUT SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION IN LIGHT OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

7. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, CHARACTER OF BONN MEETING IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM HELSINKI, GENEVA AND BELGRADE I AND II. THE PACE, BOUND BY CONSENSUS, IS THE SAME. HOWEVER, THE CONCERN OF ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS ABOUT U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE HELSINKI PROCESS SO PRECIOUS TO MANY COUNTRIES IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH. THIS HAS MOTIVATED U.S. DEL TO UTILIZE NATO TO REALIZE OUR AIMS WHERE POSSIBLE. FORTUNATELY, NATO IS STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE TO DATE DESPITE RESERVATIONS NOTED ABOVE AND COORDINATION IS GOOD.
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